

PATENT

SN-US015055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Patent Art Unit: 3683
 :
 Shinpei OKAJIMA : Examiner: Melody M. Burch
 :
 Serial No.: 09/836,545 : **Certificate of Transmission**
 : I hereby certify that this correspondence
 Filed: April 18, 2001 : is being facsimile transmitted to the
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 : Signature of: Patrick A. Hilsmier

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the April 25, 2002 Office Action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 1 with the following rewritten

09/11/2002 LITSON 09/11/2002 501836 09836545

01 FC:102
 02 FC:103

The release lever 64 basically includes a pivot pin section 65 and a handle or control section 66. In other words, a part of the release lever 64 (pivot pin section 65) forms the front pivot pin of the front binding member 42. Thus, the release lever 64 is integrally formed as a one-piece, unitary member. The pivot pin section 65 preferably includes an annular recess 65a formed at a free end thereof. A C-clip 67 (or any other suitable retaining member) is received in the annular recess 65a to secure the release lever 64 and the front binding member 42 to the binding plate 60, with the spring 62 arranged therebetween. - -

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 1 with the following once amended version: